

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 IGA-01 /091 W

----- 102370

P R 090841Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5688

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 00567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, FR, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS OF DRV INTENTIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH CHARGE IN HANOI HAS UNDERLINED IN RECENT REPORTS HIS VIEW THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF THE DRV IS ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, NOT THE STRUGGLE IN THE SOUTH. THE QUAI, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELIEVES THE DRV IS STILL PURSUING A BALANCED COURSE DESIGNED TO FURTHER THE CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH AND RPT AND THE STRUGGLE IN THE SOUTH. QUAI OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD TELL DRV REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH WAS EXCESSIVE AND RISKED JEOPARDIZING THIS DUAL POLICY. END SUMMARY

1. DURING PERIODIC TOUR D'HORIZON QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE READ TO EMBOFF EXCERPTS FROM FOUR RECENT (DECEMBER AND EARLY JANUARY) CABLES FROM THE FRENCH CHARGE IN HANOI. CHARGE SAID CERTAIN OF HIS COLLEAGUES WERE CONCERNED BY SMALL INDICATIONS IN HANOI AND NEWS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM THAT DRV COULD BE DECIDING ON A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN THE SOUTH. CHARGE THAT THE MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION FOR SUCH SIGNS IN THE NORTH INCLUDED: (A) ANNUAL RECRUITMENT IN THIRD TRIMESTER OF EACH YEAR AND; (B) DRV PREPARATIONS FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY

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DECEMBER 22. CHARGE BELIEVED THAT REGIME REMAINED

CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE ECONOMY, THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 1974 PLAN. ONE SEES SITES UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
NEARLY EVERYWHERE.

2. CHARGE NOTED IMPORTANT PRESENCE OF SOVIET DELEGATION  
AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NVA, ALSO THAT LAO PATRIOTIC  
FRONT WAS REPRESENTED BY LOGISTICS HEAD -- AND CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE MEMBER -- THAO MOUN, BUT THAT ONLY THE  
CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE WAS PLA REPRESENTATIVE AND NO  
ONE REPRESENTED THE KHMER COMMUNISTS.

3. CHARGE THOUGHT IT VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT DECEMBER  
23 - 28 5TH SESSION OF DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPEARED  
TO BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO ECONOMIC REPORT BY LE THANH  
NGHI. REPORT REFERRED MUCH LESS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE  
THAN NGHI'S REPORT OF FEBRUARY 4, 1974. CHARGE ADMITTED  
THAT GIAP'S SEPARATE MILITARY REPORT WAS NOT COVERED  
IN PRESS.

4. FOURTH REPORT WAS A LONG DISSERTATION ON CHANGES IN  
DRV AGRICULTURAL POLICY. CHARGE THOUGHT THAT LEADERS  
WERE NOW THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF AN AGRICULTURAL  
"REVOLUTION" THAN IN JUST MINOR REFORMS. DRV REPORTS  
UNDERLINED THAT IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS OF WAR, PRODUCTION  
HAD NOT INCREASED, BUT POPULATION HAD INCREASED BY FOUR  
MILLION. DRV FRIENDS SUCH AS USSR AND PRC HAD UNDER-  
STOOD WHY IN 1965 DRV NEEDED TO IMPORT FOOD, BUT THAT  
THEY HAD RECENTLY TOLD THE DRV THAT IT HAD TO REMEDY  
THE SITUATION. LE DUAN HAD SAID THAT PEASANTS WERE  
GUILTY OF ABSENTEEISM AND PAID TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO

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P R 090841Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5689  
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 00567

PRIVATE PLOTS. CHARGE NOTED THAT PRICES IN "FREE MARKET" WERE CLEARLY TWO TO THREE TIMES THE CONTROLLED PRICES FOR GRAINS AS WELL AS MEAT; PEASANTS OFTEN PREFERRED TO FEED RICE TO PIGS TO GIVING IT TO THE STATE AT FIXED PRICE. HE SAID FURTHER THAT PEASANTS WERE CONSIDERED BY CITY DWELLERS AS A PRIVILEGED CLASS. HIS FINAL COMMENT WAS THAT IT APPEARED REGIME WOULD TAKE DRASTIC STEPS TO CHANGE THE CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

5. BOLLE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO INDICATE THAT THE QUAI DID NOT AGREE WITH THE DEGREE TO WHICH CHARGE PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE DRV CONCERN ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICY. QUAI CONTINUED TO THINK THAT DRV EMPHASIZED BOTH RPT BOTH ECONOMY IN THE NORTH AND STRUGGLE IN THE SOUTH. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH ASSISTED IN STRENGTHENING THE BASE FROM WHICH THE STRUGGLE WITH THE SOUTH WAS CONDUCTED. QUAI THOUGHT DRV WISHED TO KEEP BELOW THE THRESHHOLD OF VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH WHICH WOULD JEOPARD-IZE THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF ITS OBJECTIVES PARTICULARLY FOREIGN AID. BOLLE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH WAS VERY CLOSE TO THAT THRESHHOLD -- IF NOT BEYOND IT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD  
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TELL THE DRV REPRESENTATIVES WHEN HE SEES THEM THAT THE FRENCH VIEW IS THAT THE RECENT OFFENSIVE IN PHUOC LONG GOES BEYOND A LEVEL COMPATIBLE WITH ANY PRETENSE TO ADHERENCE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND RISKED BEING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. BOLLE WOULD WARN DRV THAT SUCH VIOLENCE MIGHT AT LEAST STRENGTHEN THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE'S CASE IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE CONGRESSION-AL AUTHORIZATION OF AID TO THE GVN.  
RUSH

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